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gent and thorough study of the civil law, but the great utility of this study to one who would treat at once accurately and exhaustively a practical topic of our own law.

In his Introduction Mr. Dixon states, that it is his design to trace the doctrine of subrogation to its original source in the Roman law, and to compare the principles of Roman jurisprudence on that subject with the rules applied to subrogation at the common law, and more especially with the law as understood and administered in the United States. Very few are the authors who have carried their design more completely into effect.

Subrogation cannot be better defined than in the first two lines of the Treatise. It is the substitution of another person in the place of a creditor, to whose rights he succeeds in relation to his debt. For example, a purchaser of land finds that a creditor of the seller has a mortgage upon it. The purchaser must pay the debt or lose his land. If he pays it, and the mortgage is discharged, some other creditor, with a right posterior to the mortgagee's, but prior to the purchaser's, might come in. But if the purchaser has the right of subrogation, he may insist that the mortgage shall not be discharged, but transferred to him. Then he is substituted for the creditor who was mortgagee, and has all his rights as purchaser with the rights of a mortgagee super-added. This would be subrogation in favor of a purchaser. It may also exist in favor of a joint debtor, of a surety, of a surety of a surety, of the holder of negotiable instruments, of a trustee of insurers, of a legatee, or, in some cases, of a mere stranger. All these different forms and aspects of subrogation are considered in the different chapters of Mr. Dixon's volume. It closes with a very able chapter on the nature of the rights acquired by subrogation. We recommend this Treatise to all our legal readers. A man must have very little business who does not find it useful.

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2. — *La Littérature Indépendante et les Écrivains Oubliés.* Par VICTOR FOURNEL. Paris. 1862. 12mo. pp. 484.

THE tendency of the present age, as the author of this work says in his Preface, is towards erudition. The critic and literary historian seeks not so much to lay open the great periods of literary activity, as to satisfy the curiosity of his readers upon the more obscure intervals which have heretofore been overlooked. M. Victor Fournel has as much as any writer contributed to satisfy the lovers of recondite learning. His History of the Pont-Neuf, published two years ago, abounds

in curious research. No one possesses more fully than he the talent of grouping facts apparently insignificant, and forming a narrative so vivid, and so devoid of all ostentation, that we lose sight of the scholar in the pleasure we derive from the pleasant talker.

The present volume abounds in interesting details not to be found in common literary histories. It embraces the non-classic portion of the classic age of French letters. There is little system in the arrangement of subjects, though this deficiency does not affect the interest of the work. The chapters on the burlesque and on the influence of Scarron's Virgil are among the best. The interminable quarrel known as that of the Ancients and Moderns is also given in full. When we think of the numberless books, pamphlets, and articles, of every degree of merit, which this quarrel called forth, we may well ask whether either party knew what it was contending for. It filled the journals of the day, and found its way into fables, letters, and songs. Even the Harlequin of the fair-booth emitted his sage opinion upon the respective merits of "Clovis" and the Iliad.

Nor are the greater names of French literature omitted in the survey of M. Fournel. Corneille, Racine, and Molière have also a dark side not generally known. They hence find their place in *La Littérature Indépendante*, which may safely be ranked among the valuable contributions to the literary history of the seventeenth century.

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3. — *Dictionnaire d'Etymologie Française d'après les Resultats de la Science moderne.* Par AUGUSTE SCHELER. Brussels and Paris. 1862. 8vo. pp. 340.

THIS book, small and compact for a work of such a nature, is all that its title promises. It is purely a dictionary of French etymology, — nothing more, — as no definitions are given, nor are words to be found in it which no more belong to the French language than to any other modern speech that may have borrowed them from the Latin or Greek with scarcely an alteration in the spelling. But, on the other hand, words of common life are explained as far as the state of modern philology will allow.

Hitherto the student of the French language has been sadly at a loss for information respecting the etymology of the most common words. Roquefort is unsatisfactory; and as to such works as those of Menage, Nicot, and others, were they easily accessible, they are far from solving even superficial difficulties, and consulted alone would often lead astray. Diez, a new edition of whose Etymological Dictionary of the Romanic